



FIRST® LEGO® League

Ohio State Championship



FAMILY INFORMATION PACKET

Welcome and congratulations to you and your child's FLL team! We are thrilled to be able to host this Championship tournament, and we thank you being a part of this experience! In order to give you and your child the best possible experience, this document will explain some of our policies and give some information that will make your experience and your child's team experience ones you will remember for a long time. Thanks for your support!

Angela Riethman
Director of Ohio FLL

Team Only Areas:

As you know, FIRST® LEGO® League is a child and team driven program. Through FLL, teams are empowered to decide on their own direction, solutions, and problem-solving strategies. Children learn to become independent thinkers with advance teamwork and critical thinking skills.

Coaches are those indispensable guides and role models, but the kids are the ones who do the work. Because of this fundamental philosophy, we do have "Team Only" area, where teams can focus on the competition with minimum adult interaction and influence. In this way, the team takes responsibility for their problem-solving and successes. Our judges are able to see and visit with the kids, hear and see what they have learned, and communicate with them authentically. For this reason, our Pit and Judging Areas are closed to the public. Up to two adult coaches/mentors may be with the team in these "Team Only" areas. Parents are welcome in the competition area as spectators, but will not be allowed at the tables. We thank you in advance for your understanding and respect of this policy.

Judging Session and Robot Competition:

Your child's team will be judged in three areas (Nature's Fury project, Robot Design, and Core Values) during a pre-assigned 90 minutes judging slot on Saturday, February 8th. Schedule will be posted on the Ohio FLL website (http://edoutreach.wpaafb.af.mil/Robotics/pages/fll_stchamp.html) closer to the event.

The event is closed to the public during judging on Saturday. Parents and family members may not travel with the team into the Team Judging areas. If you plan to help transport your child, or other team members, you might want to visit one of the food establishments along Colonel Glenn Highway or The Fairfield Commons Mall, which is located less than a mile from the Nutter Center.

The event is open to the public during the robot competition on Sunday; however, the competition and pit areas are reserved for team members and two coaches per team. You are free to be in the spectator seating section of the main arena for the Robot Competition.

Food and Drinks:

No outside food is permitted inside the Ervin J. Nutter Center. Concession stands will be available on Sunday on the 4th floor concourse level. Should you choose to leave and purchase food outside of the Nutter Center, this food, **including drinks**, cannot be brought back inside the Nutter Center.

Parking:

If you are attending the event on Sunday as a spectator, please park in Lot 1 or 2 and enter through Gate 3. If you are transporting team members, you can park in the back of the Nutter Center in Lot 9 and enter through Gate 9. Once inside Gate 9, you can take the elevator or stairs up to the 4th floor and enter the spectator seating area.

Lodging

We are pleased to partner with the Holiday Inn Fairborn (www.holidayinn.com/fairbornoh) for this year's Championship Event. They are offering a group rate of \$79 per night for teams and volunteers. If you would like to take advantage of this rate, call 937-431-4613 to reserve your room!

Pit Area:

This area is open only to team members and two coaches per team. The pit area is in the main arena, behind the competition area. Family members are welcome to sit in the spectator seating areas and look down into the pit. If you need to communicate with your child while he/she is in the pit, please contact a volunteer at the information table in the lobby.

In order for family and friends to have an opportunity to see what the teams have done and get a look at the pits area, we are opening the pit to the public during the following items on Sunday:

7:00am – 7:45am (prior to Opening Ceremony)

1:45pm – end of event (Pit Teardown/Load Out – prior to Closing Ceremony)

Team Communications:

We recommend that you make arrangements with your team in advance for down times when you can all meet. For instance, you might all want to meet for lunch during a long break in the team's schedule. You also might want to spend some time watching parts of the robot competition together. If you prepare for these times in advance, it will make the day less confusing. Please be aware that parts of the Nutter Center are cell phone dead zones, so you may not want to rely on cell phones for your communications in the building. You can leave messages, if necessary, at the Pit Administration Desk, which is located at the entrance to the Pit. In the event of an emergency, the Pit Administration staff can page your coach or your child in the Pit.

Championship T-Shirts

We will be selling Championship t-shirts at the event on both Saturday and Sunday, which will feature a list of the teams competing. Feel free to stop by the information table located inside Gate 3 on Sunday to purchase a shirt!

Event Schedule: Sunday, February 9th**7:00 am: Nutter Center Opens**

The building is officially open for the event. You can find concessions on the Concourse level inside Gates 2 and 3. **No outside food is permitted at the event!**

7:45 am: Parade of Teams

Find a seat in the arena stands to watch your FLL, JrFLL, or FTC team parade in the arena. Make sure you cheer loudly for your teams and other teams that will be competing in this championship event!

~8:00 am: Opening Ceremony

Join us for a ceremony to open the tournament and honor our statewide volunteers and Ambassador Teams.

9:00 am: Practice Round

Get a feel for the competition flow by watching this practice round which takes place on the main arena floor.

10:00 am: Robot Competition Begins

The three official robot rounds begin in the competition area. Refer to your program book to see when your child's team will compete. There will be seating in the Main Arena and scores will be displayed prominently on large screens. Your team will be announced by a play-by-play announcer and the robot run will be projected onto the big screen.

11:45 am: Robot Competition Break

If you leave the Nutter Center for lunch, please remember no outside food or drink can be brought back inside the Nutter Center.

12:30 pm: Robot Competition Resumes

1:15 pm: Official Robot Rounds End

1:30 pm: Robot Alliance Round

The Alliance Round is purely for fun! Groups of 3 teams will work together to see how many points they can earn on the competition board. The event program will have a complete description of this challenge.

2:15 pm: Medal Ceremony and Parade of Team

All of the teams are welcomed to the competition floor and will receive a participation medal recognizing all of their hard work.

~2:30 pm: Awards and Closing Ceremony

Join us as we recognize the teams for their achievements in the State Championship. Please refer to the Program Book for a complete list of the awards that will be presented.

We would like to thank all of the families for supporting your teams throughout the FLL season and for this event. Parents – you should be very proud of the incredible people your children are becoming, and thank you for sharing them with the rest of the Ohio Championship teams for this experience!

3:30 pm: End of Event – Have a safe trip home

Other Activities – Sunday, February 9th

- **Kid Zone:** Just inside the Gate 3 entrance, we have a “Kid Zone” area set up for younger siblings to play with LEGO elements. The Kid Zone is in the perfect location for parents to keep an eye on their little ones, while still observing the robot competition
- **FTC Scrimmage:** There will be an FTC (high school aged robotics program) scrimmage in the McLin Gym, located on the 1st floor across the hall from the main arena. Eight to twelve FTC teams will be participating in the unofficial competition. The event will run from 9:00am – 2:00pm. We encourage everyone to check out the exciting robot action of the FRIST high school program.
- **JrFLL Expo:** We will have 12 JrFLL (ages 6-8) teams participating in the JrFLL Expo, which will be held on the Flight Deck on the 4th floor concourse level, just inside Gate 1. The event will start at 9:00am and end with the JrFLL High Fives Ceremony on the main arena floor at noon.

A Final Note about Gracious Behavior

In FLL, we embrace the value of Gracious Professionalism™. Please be gracious observers of this FLL experience. Poor behavior on the part of family members can impact a team negatively with the judges.

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in this powerful, empowering program. You have to be incredibly proud of your child's growth over the course of this tournament season! These teams inspire us as well!

HAVE FUN!!